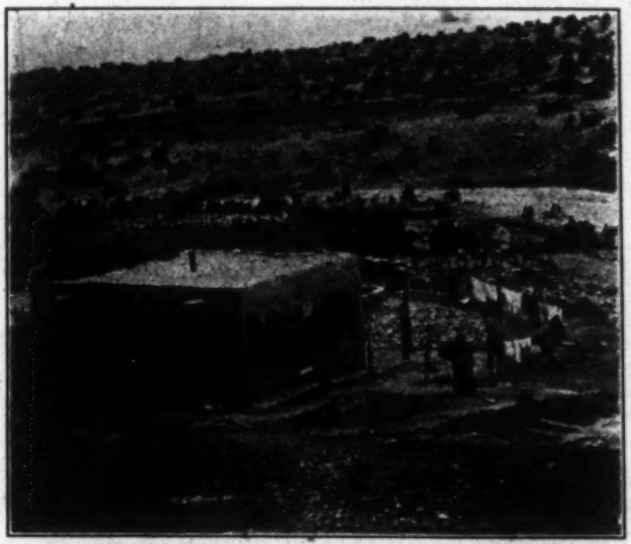
Preparing for Life

A Sketch of Our



Santa Fe Boarding Schools

THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
One Fifty-Six Fifth Avenue, New York City

MISS MATILDA L. ALLISON,
THE MOTHER OF THE SANTA FE SCHOOLS

— 1913

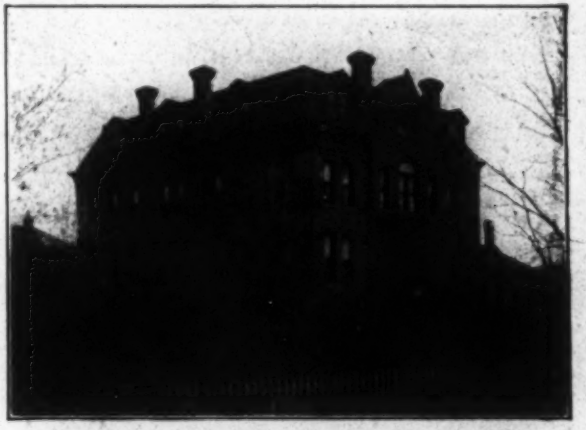
Preparing for Life

A SKETCH OF OUR SANTA FE BOARDING SCHOOLS

I. THE ALLISON

TO get the proper setting for your picture of the Allison, you must first conjure up in your mind sunshiny New Mexico and its interesting people, and recall if you can the starting of the little plaza schools and the day of small things at the Allison.

Think of the ignorance of the people, the forlornity of the boys and girls who were the first pupils, of the darkness of their minds and the sadness of their faces, of the religious bondage in which they lived, and of their miserable homes, "looking like gray dry goods boxes scattered over the landscape," and you will be the better able to appreciate the great things accomplished by the school; the change in the people; and to rejoice with the reapers of the now ripening harvest.



"PEOPLE THE BUILDING WITH HAPPY-HEARTED GIRLS"

It seems hardly necessary to retrace all the steps taken to bring the school to its present state of efficiency, for the story is a familiar one—from its beginning in the compassionate heart of the young wife of an army officer stationed at Santa Fe, on through the development of interest which resulted in the organization of a society of women for the purpose of raising funds to support a teacher and Protestant mission school in the old, old, Roman Catholic city of Santa Fe.

Years later the day school became a boarding school for girls, and in place of the miserable adobe house, all out of repair, a commodious and convenient school building was erected; the number of pupils was enlarged, and in every direction rapid progress was made. The purpose of the school has been briefly stated, as follows:

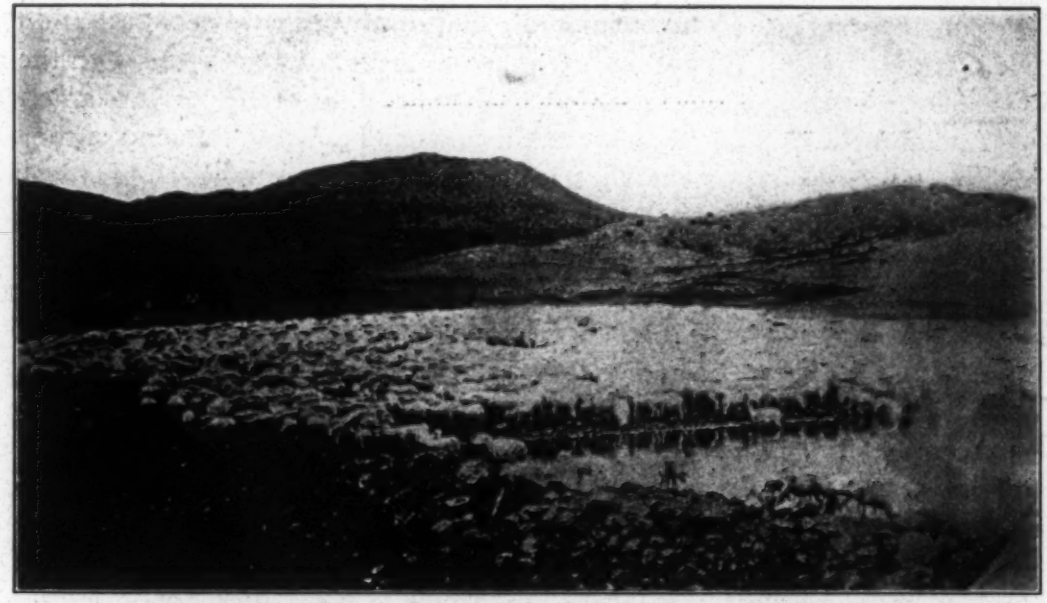
"To train girls in such arts and sciences as are taught in schools of high grade, and in such industrial occupations as may be profitable to them in life; in purity, gentleness and strength of moral purpose, in short to develop an intelligent and useful citizenship. The course of study covers eight years."

"In the industrial department are taught sewing, dressmaking, mending, cooking and all that pertains to good housekeeping and good home-making. All students have instruction in vocal music. Piano and organ lessons are given if desired."

Infuse life into this dry statement—people the large building with happy, earnest-hearted and bright-faced girls, busy and energetic for certain hours of each day, in the laundry, kitchen or

dining-room, for all the work of this big home-school is done by them.

See them in the classrooms, doing good, thorough work; listen to the singing of the different grades—you will enjoy it! Sweet voices, well trained, and singing for the love of it.



THE LITTLE SHEPHERDS OF THE SHEEP LEAD A LONELY LIFE

There is the bakery too, a most important adjunct, where from forty to fifty large loaves of bread, light and sweet, are turned out every day. Notice

especially the interest felt in Bible Study, and in the religious services, and then when the whole building throbs with light and life before you, *close it*, and go home with the girls for their vacation and look on at their life there, for this is the real test of the year's character building at Allison.

And amid all the temptations and the downpull of home influences, the Christian life of these girls does in most instances nobly stand the test, and during the long vacation greatly improves the conditions of that same home life. One may easily distinguish the homes of the Allison girls as one travels through the country!

These girls come not only from all parts of New Mexico but from Arizona, Texas, and old Mexico as well. Many who apply for admission must be turned away, for although the buildings have several times been enlarged, there is still lack of room.

The great purpose of the school now is to prepare the girls in lines of work, such as will make them competent to go forth and help in the uplifting and education of their own people "in purity, gentleness, and strength of moral purpose," even as they themselves have been uplifted; and to develop an intelligent and useful Christian womanhood.

And there are to-day in New Mexico very many such Christian women doing a fine work in school or home who can say "All I am, I owe to the Allison School."

There are at this time eighty girls preparing for life at the Allison.

II. THE MARY E. JAMES

FOR long years the workers at Santa Fe cherished the hope of a boy's School to round out the influence of the Allison, for the boys' sake and also for the girls' sake, for in establishing true Christian homes, it is necessary that both men and women have a Christian education; so it was with rejoicings of heart that they saw these hopes fulfilled in the opening on January 1st, 1908, of the Mary E. James School for native Mexican boys.

The name was given and the building built and equipped in loving recognition of Mrs. Darwin R. James' long years of faithful and generous service as President of the Woman's Board of Home Missions.

ON THE WAY TO THE MARY E. JAMES

People said, as they watched the erection of the beautiful new building, "When you open that building you will have to travel all over New Mexico for boys to put in it!"

And lo! when the school opened, there were the boys—standing around the corners, *waiting* to get in. At that time the building was surrounded by sand hills, cactus and sage brush.

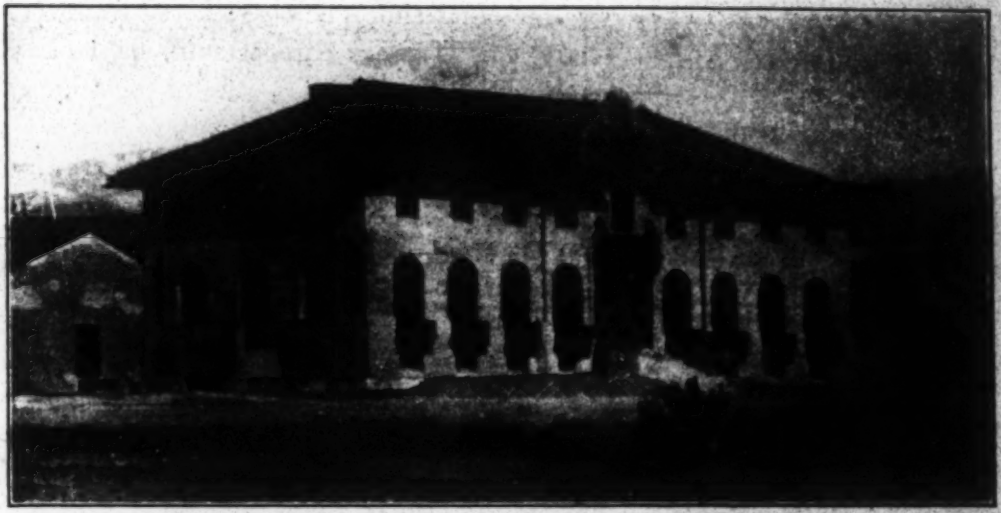
Already, in its third year, the school has become "one of the show-places of Santa Fe."

MARY E. JAMES BOYS IMPROVING THE GROUNDS OF THE ALLISON

The building stands proudly beside the Allison; around it and in beautiful order are lawn and shade trees and fields of Alfalfa; a young orchard, garden and farm and neatly kept driveways, all of them capturing the attention of passers by. The boys are enthusiastic and very successful gardeners and farmers. This is only a part of their work. The classroom schedule covers ten grades and the boys do good work here also, although many of them must do it all in a language entirely unknown to them when they enter the school.

The great drawback here as

elsewhere is lack of room Two hundred boys were turned away last year. A few boys remain through the vacation forming a summer class in farming and gardening.



SURROUNDED BY CACTUS, SAND HILLS AND SAGE BRUSH

Through their efforts and industry both schools are abundantly supplied with vegetables through the summer, with a goodly amount to be stored away for the winter; they have fruits also and honey, and are learning how to care for bees, chickens, and ducks. These boys, when they go out from school will teach their own people how to live and to work.

THE GARDEN AND SOME "RESULTS"

But other fruit is being gathered from the Mary E. James School. There is at all times earnest study of the Bible and many of the boys have become Christians. One of them expects to study for the ministry and hopes to be a missionary to his own people. He is a young man to be depended upon, does fine work in the industrial department and is already a great help to the superintendent in leading the boys out from the ignorance and superstition of Romanism.

Long life to the Allison and to the Mary E. James!